SPECIAL SONIC AND THE BLACK KNIGHT VIDEO GAME STORY INSIDE!

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SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

DIRECT EDITION

THE COSMIC HIGHWAY
Consequences
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Editor-in-Chief VICTOR GORELICK
Special thanks to KRISTIN PARCELL & CINDY CHAU at Sega Licensing
MAN-O-MAN...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I RAN THESE ROADS, BUT I KNOW THEY WEREN'T THIS BAD THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE.
Scourge the Hedgehog
Sonic's Dark Double
Sonic the Hedgehog
Hero of the Multiverse
Sally Acorn
Leader of the Freedom Fighters
Zonic the Zone Cop
Policeman of the Multiverse
Councilor Hamlin
Freedom Fighter turned Politician

BACK IN THE DAY, I'D TAKE THE COSMIC HIGHWAY TO THE OTHER ZONES AND NOT GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT...
... BUT THEN I MET ZONIC. HE CLUED ME IN TO THE ENTIRE MULTIVERSE-- WHOLE OTHER WORLDS IN ZONES ALL CONNECTED BY THE COSMIC HIGHWAY.
HE TOLD ME I'M DESTINED TO PROTECT IT ALL, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A LONG TIME.
SO ONCE I DUMP YOU OFF, SLEEPING BEAUTY, I'M GRILLING HIM ON WHY HE ISN'T DOING HIS PART OF THE JOB.
OR YOU CAN GET BENT AND I'LL GET BACK TO TRASHING YOUR PLANET.
GAH!

I WAS HOPING YOU'D STILL BE DRAINED FROM YOUR DE-POWERING YESTERDAY.*
SO MUCH FOR THAT!
I MAY NOT BE AT MY BEST...
*SEE THE EPIC SUPER SCOURGE FIGHT LAST ISSUE!
...BUT I'M STILL ONE STEP AHEAD OF YOU. THANKS FOR THAT.
SMASH
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF...!
AS MUCH AS I'D ENJOY KICKING YOUR BUTT AGAIN, I'D BE HAPPY TO LET YOU CHILL OUT FOR A WHILE.
IN AN INTERDIMENSIONAL PRISON CELL? YEAH--NO THANKS.
HALT! YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE MULTIVERSE LOCKDOWN ACT!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

PRIME ZONE-- NEW MOBOTROPOLIS-- CASTLE ACORN
I WOULD LIKE AN EXPLANATION AS TO WHY IT FEELS LIKE I'M UNDER ARREST.
YOU'RE NOT UNDER ARREST! WE...WE'VE NOT PRESSED CHARGES.
YET.
THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS HEARING.
WHAT--?!
I JUST GOT BACK FROM MOEBIUS. HOW...
PRECISELY, PRINCESS. THE CHARGES UNDER DISCUSSION ARE SUBVERTING THE COUNCIL'S AUTHORITY AND GOING ROGUE.

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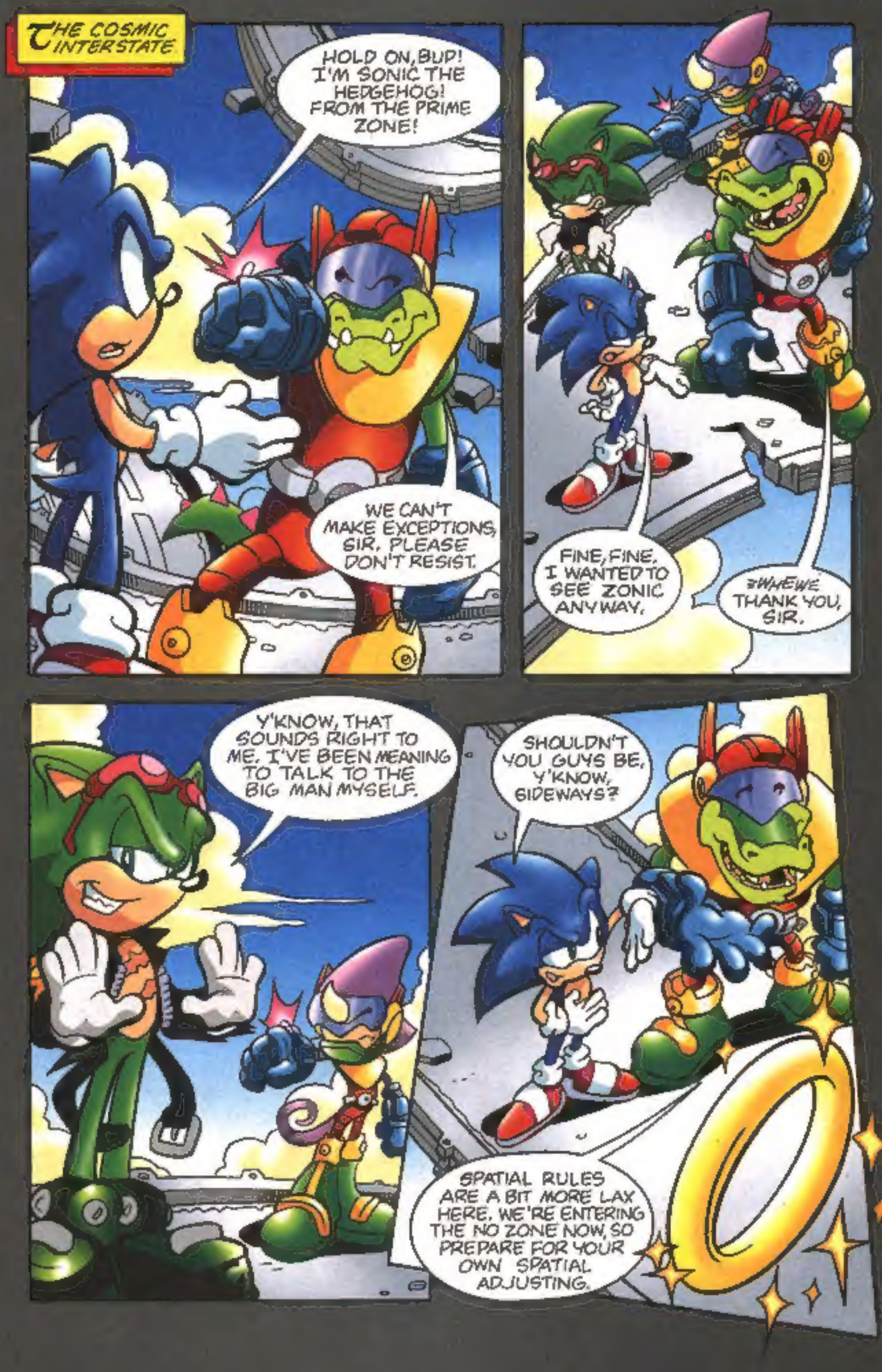
TREASON. YOU'RE ACCUSING ME OF TREASON.
THE COUNCIL OF ACORN VOTED TO NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE SUPPRESSION SQUAD.* THE ACTIVE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE TO FOCUS ON PRESSING THE ASSAULT AGAINST DR. ROBOTNIK.
* COUNT THE VOTES IN STH #191!
THE CHAOTIX HAVE BEEN HERE TO...
YOU LED THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS INTO FREEDOM HQ AND ACROSS ZONES TO MOEBIUS. YES OR NO?
...YES.
THE COUNCIL ALSO VOTED FOR SONIC'S INSURRECTION TO BE PUNISHED.**
GIVEN THAT HE MET WITH BOTH YOU AND THE KING BEFORE LEAVING FOR MOEBIUS, ONE BEGINS TO WONDER IF THIS ISN'T ALL ONE LARGE ROYAL CONSPIRACY.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
** NOT THAT HE MINDED-- SEE STH#192 TO SEE WHY!

I CREATED THE SPECIFICS OF SONIC'S "PUNISHMENT" AND SENT HIM ON HIS MISSION UNDER MY AUTHORITY AS FIELD LEADER!
NOT YOUR AUTHORITY AS PRINCESS?
NO.
SO YOU ARE SAYING YOU HOLD NO POWER OUTSIDE OF BEING THE FIELD LEADER?
...I SUPPOSE SO, YES, SINCE ELIAS IS THE KING.
SO LET ME PUT THIS STRAIGHT--
YOU MADE YOUR DECISION AS FIELD LEADER OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS,... A GROUP THAT ANSWERS DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCIL OF ACORN.
SO YOU HAVE JUST ADMITTED TO US THAT YOU WENT AGAINST DIRECT ORDERS OF YOUR SUPERIORS!
...CRUD.

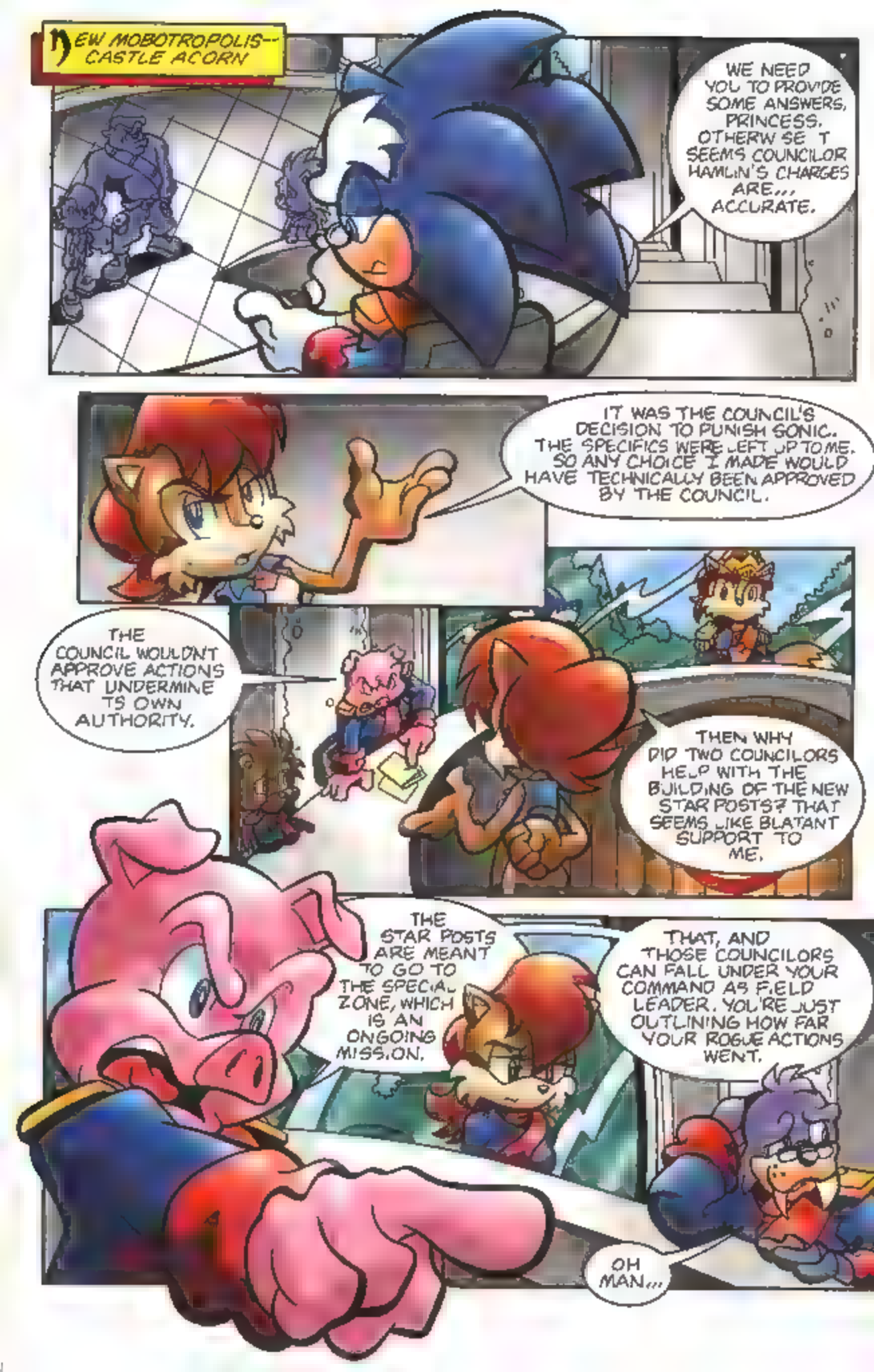

THE COSMIC INTERSTATE
HOLD ON, BUD! I'M SONIC THE HEDGEHOG! FROM THE PRIME ZONE!
WE CAN'T MAKE EXCEPTIONS, SIR. PLEASE DON'T RESIST.
FINE, FINE. I WANTED TO SEE ZONIC ANYWAY.
WHEWE THANK YOU, SIR.
Y'KNOW, THAT SOUNDS RIGHT TO ME. I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO THE BIG MAN MYSELF.
SHOULDN'T YOU GUYS BE, Y'KNOW, SIDEWAYS?
SPATIAL RULES ARE A BIT MORE LAX HERE. WE'RE ENTERING THE NO ZONE NOW, SO PREPARE FOR YOUR OWN SPATIAL ADJUSTING.

THIS IS THE NO ZONE?!
ZONE 0
ZONE 3

WHAT HAPPENED? THE PLACE IS IN RUINS!
NOT ENOUGH FOR MY TASTES.

THANKS FOR OPENING THE DOOR, CHUMPS!

I'VE BEEN LOCKED IN THE CLINK HERE ONCE ALREADY. ONLY WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN IS TO TEAR THIS ZONE TO THE GROUND!
THEN IT'S A STRAIGHT SHOT TO MOBIUS. I OWE SONIC'S WORLD A CATACLYSM!
COME AND GET SOME, JERKS!
AS IF WE HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH TROUBLE! ALL POINTS CONVERGE ON THE CENTRAL PRECINCT! SCOURGE IS THE PRIORITY TARGET!
NO, YOUR PRIORITY IS BRINGING ME SOME DOODAD TO GET ME UPRIGHT HERE. THEN YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE


NEW MOBOTROPOLIS--CASTLE ACORN
WE NEED YOU TO PROVIDE SOME ANSWERS, PRINCESS. OTHERWISE IT SEEMS COUNCILOR HAMLIN'S CHARGES ARE... ACCURATE.
IT WAS THE COUNCIL'S DECISION TO PUNISH SONIC. THE SPECIFICS WERE LEFT UP TO ME. SO ANY CHOICE I MADE WOULD HAVE TECHNICALLY BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL.
THE COUNCIL WOULDN'T APPROVE ACTIONS THAT UNDERMINE ITS OWN AUTHORITY.
THEN WHY DID TWO COUNCILORS HELP WITH THE BUILDING OF THE NEW STAR POSTS? THAT SEEMS LIKE BLATANT SUPPORT TO ME.
THE STAR POSTS ARE MEANT TO GO TO THE SPECIAL ZONE, WHICH IS AN ONGOING MISSION.
THAT, AND THOSE COUNCILORS CAN FALL UNDER YOUR COMMAND AS FIELD LEADER. YOU'RE JUST OUTLINING HOW FAR YOUR ROGUE ACTIONS WENT.
OH MAN...

THERE WAS NO LARGER INVASION PLAN! AN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF AND WE ACTED!*

NOW FREEDOM HQ IS OURS AGAIN AND THE INVASION FROM MOEBIUS HAS BEEN DRIVEN BACK!

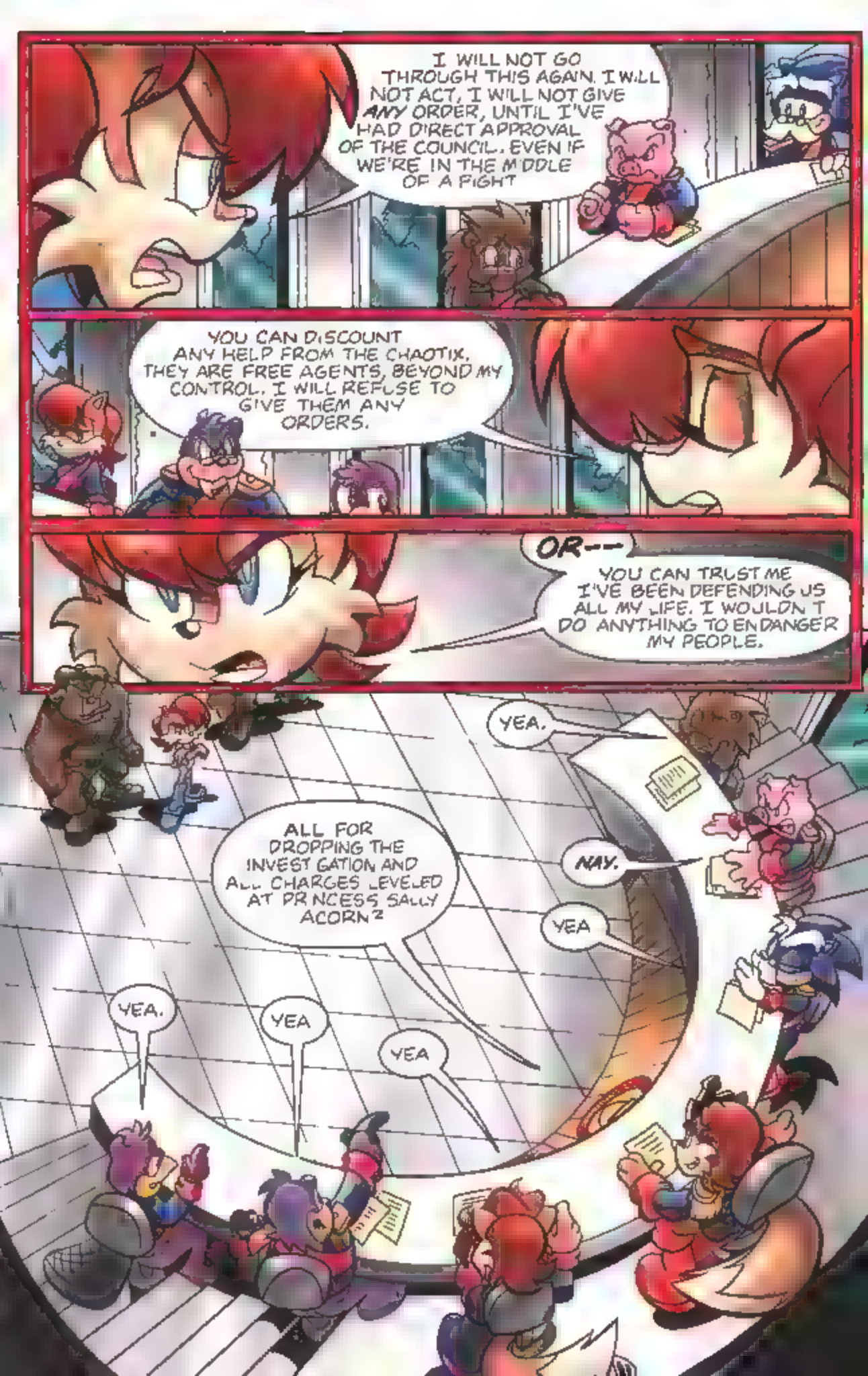
*REMEMBER MILES' PROPOSAL IN STH#193?

THE ENDS DO NOT JUSTIFY THE MEANS! IF WE ACCEPT THAT, THEN YOU CAN DO ANYTHING IN THE NAME OF THE "GREATER GOOD" AND WE BECOME REDUNDANT!

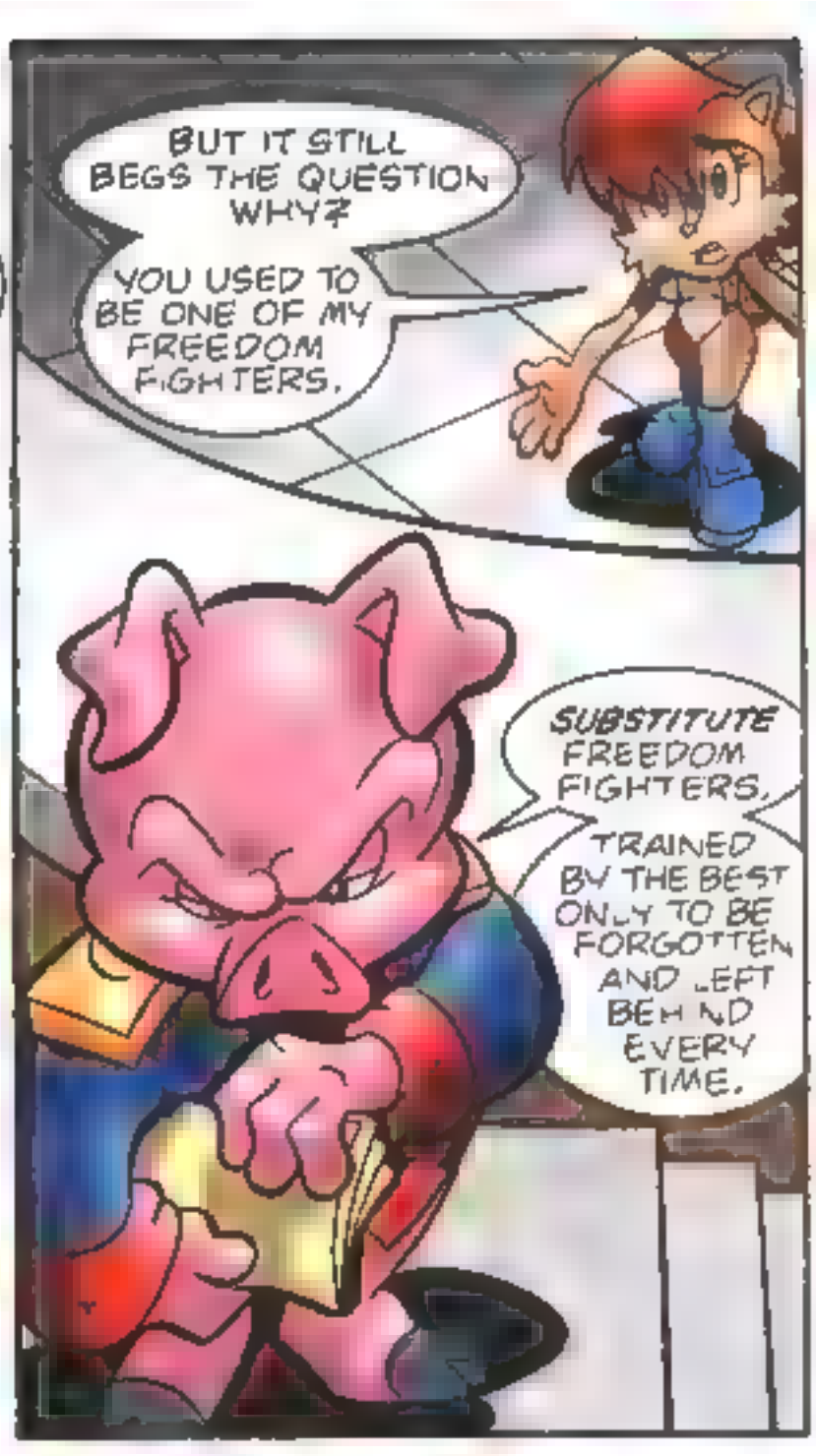
FINE THEN, I'M GUILTY.

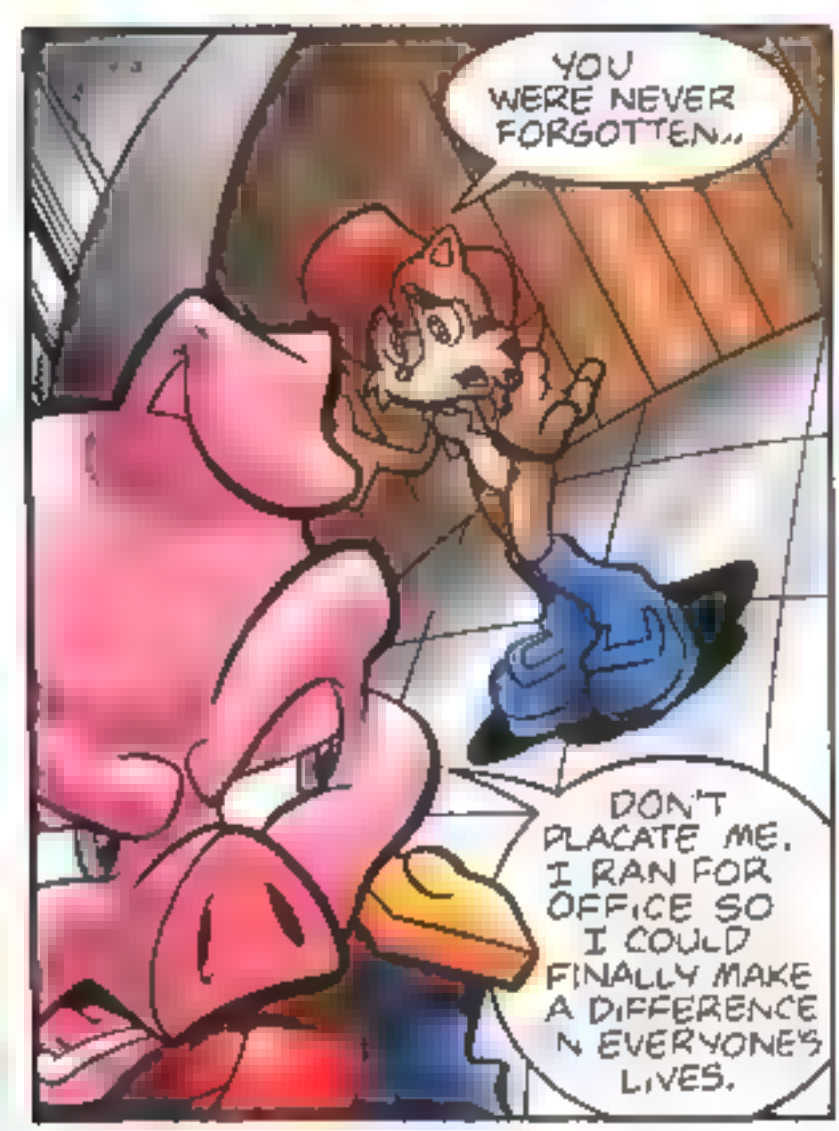
WELL! IN THAT CASE, I MOVE THAT WE...

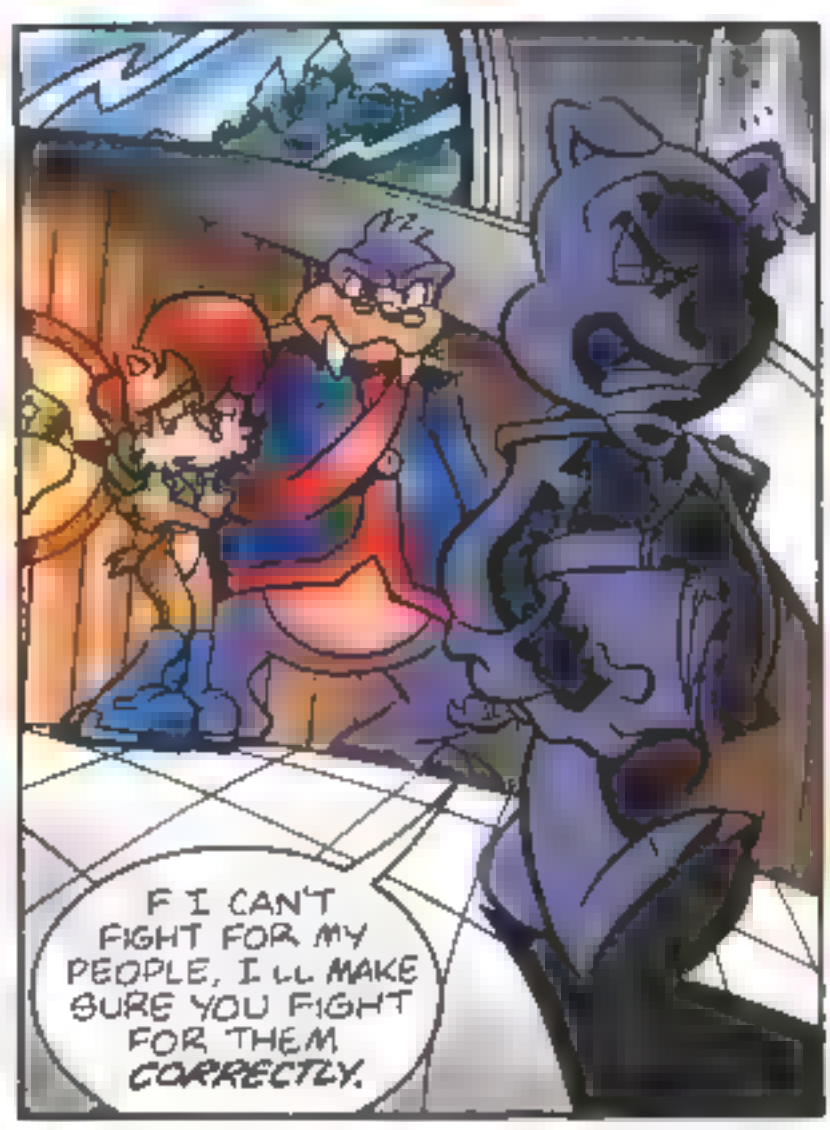
BUT UNDERSTAND THIS...


I WILL NOT GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN. I WILL NOT ACT, I WILL NOT GIVE ANY ORDER, UNTIL I'VE HAD DIRECT APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL. EVEN IF WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT
YOU CAN DISCOUNT ANY HELP FROM THE CHAOTIX. THEY ARE FREE AGENTS, BEYOND MY CONTROL. I WILL REFUSE TO GIVE THEM ANY ORDERS.
OR--
YOU CAN TRUST ME I'VE BEEN DEFENDING US ALL MY LIFE. I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO ENDANGER MY PEOPLE.
YEA.
ALL FOR DROPPING THE INVESTIGATION AND ALL CHARGES LEVELED AT PRINCESS SALLY ACORN?
NAY.
YEA
YEA.
YEA
YEA

THAT WAS AMAZING, SALLY! I THOUGHT HAMLIN HAD YOU.
HE DID. I JUST MANAGED TO CONVINCE EVERYONE TO LET ME GO.


BUT IT STILL BEGS THE QUESTION WHY?
YOU USED TO BE ONE OF MY FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
SUBSTITUTE FREEDOM FIGHTERS,
TRAINED BY THE BEST ONLY TO BE FORGOTTEN AND LEFT BEHIND EVERY TIME.


YOU WERE NEVER FORGOTTEN...
DON'T PLACATE ME. I RAN FOR OFFICE SO I COULD FINALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN EVERYONE'S LIVES.


IF I CAN'T FIGHT FOR MY PEOPLE, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU FIGHT FOR THEM CORRECTLY.

THE NO ZONE
THAT SPATIAL STABILIZER SHOULD KEEP YOU ORIENTED HERE.
SWEET. I'LL JUST KEEP IT TUCKED UNDER MY GLOVE FOR THE FUTURE.
NOW WHAT'S THIS BUSINESS ABOUT THE ZONES BEING UNDER LOCKDOWN?
THERE'S A MAD MAN CALLED DR NEGA TRAVELING THE COSMIC HIGHWAY, CAUSING CHAOS AND WAGING WAR ON THE ZONE COPS.
I THINK I RAN INTO HIM ONCE, BRIEFLY.*
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU GOT OUT OF THE ENCOUNTER ALIVE
WE'VE LOCKED DOWN THE MULTIVERSE TO KEEP HIM OUT OF YOUR WORLD.
ONLY A FEW ZONES HAVE REMAINED OPEN TO YOURS FOR STABILITY'S SAKE.
*GET MORE DETAILS IN SONIC UNIVERSE #11
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME NOW LET'S KICK SCOURGE'S BUTT
LET IT NEVER BE SAID I DIDN'T ENJOY YOUR DIRECTNESS.

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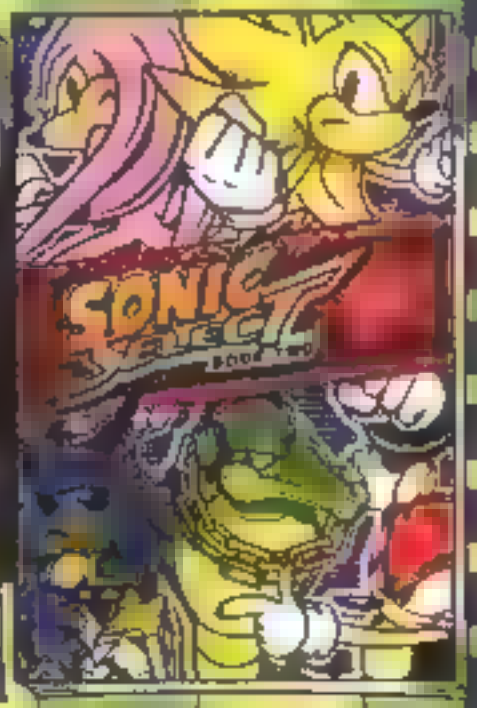

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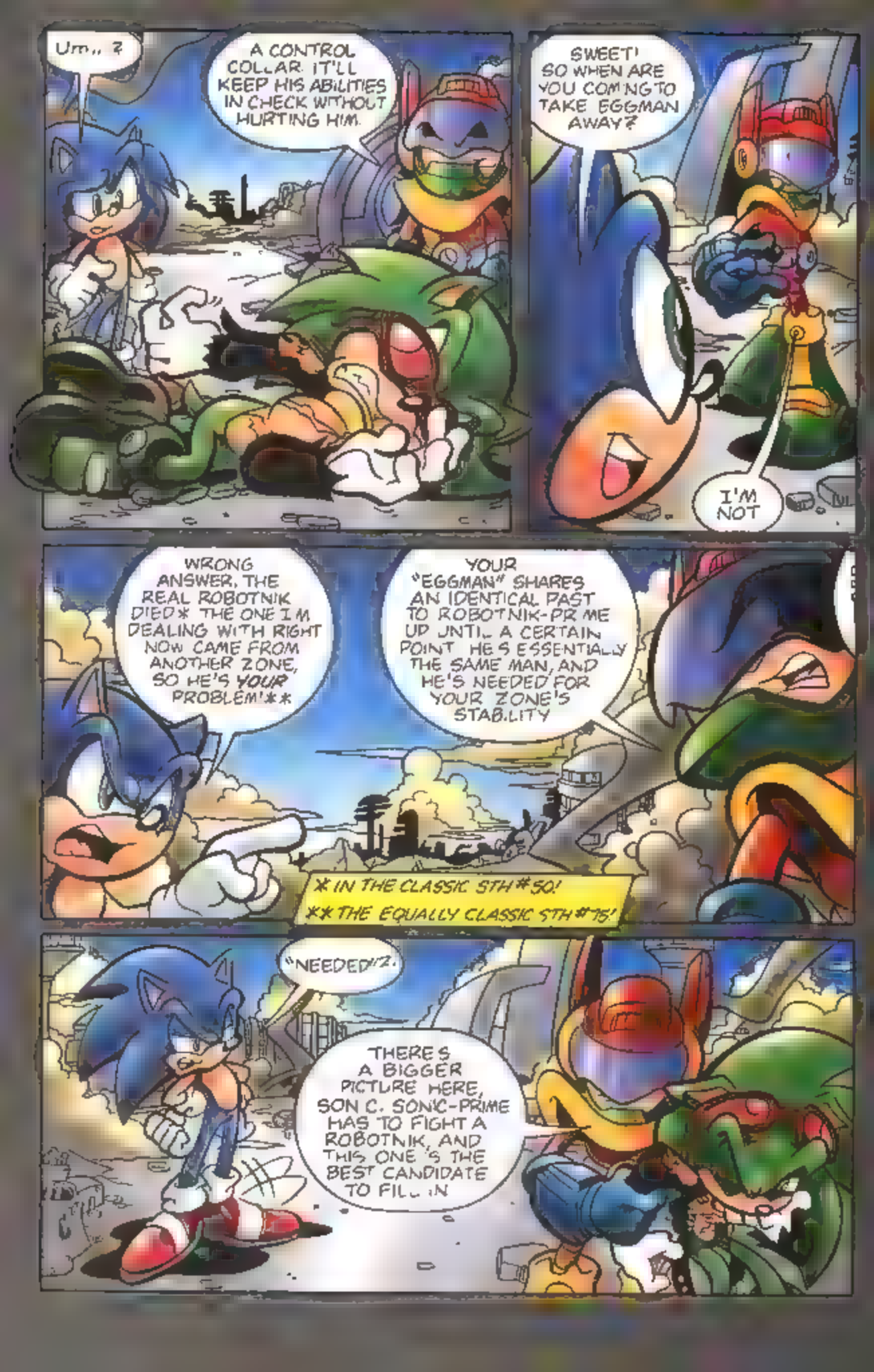
YOU'RE WORN RAGGED, SCOURGE YOU CAN'T KEEP THIS UP FOREVER!
THAT WON'T STOP ME FROM TAKING OUT AS MANY OF YOU JOKERS AS I CAN FIRST!
AUGH!
DENIED!
CLACK!
HRK!


Um... ?
A CONTROL COLLAR. IT'LL KEEP HIS ABILITIES IN CHECK WITHOUT HURTING HIM.
SWEET! SO WHEN ARE YOU COMING TO TAKE EGGMAN AWAY?
I'M NOT
WRONG ANSWER. THE REAL ROBOTNIK DIED* THE ONE I'M DEALING WITH RIGHT NOW CAME FROM ANOTHER ZONE, SO HE'S YOUR PROBLEM!**
YOUR "EGGMAN" SHARES AN IDENTICAL PAST TO ROBOTNIK-PRIME UP UNTIL A CERTAIN POINT. HE'S ESSENTIALLY THE SAME MAN, AND HE'S NEEDED FOR YOUR ZONE'S STABILITY.
* IN THE CLASSIC STH #50!
** THE EQUALLY CLASSIC STH #75!
"NEEDED"?
THERE'S A BIGGER PICTURE HERE, SONIC. SONIC-PRIME HAS TO FIGHT A ROBOTNIK, AND THIS ONE'S THE BEST CANDIDATE TO FILL IN

THEN WHY DID I HAVE TO BRING SCOURGE TO YOU?

WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT FROM ME?! WE'VE BEEN UNDER SIEGE!

BESIDES, SCOURGE'S MUTATION HAS MADE HIM SOMETHING OF A WILD CARD IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS.

HEY...

YOU CAN TRY TO WRITE ME OFF, MUTATION, EVIL TWIN--WHATEVER. BUT THE TRUTH IS I'M SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AT HIS FULL POTENTIAL.

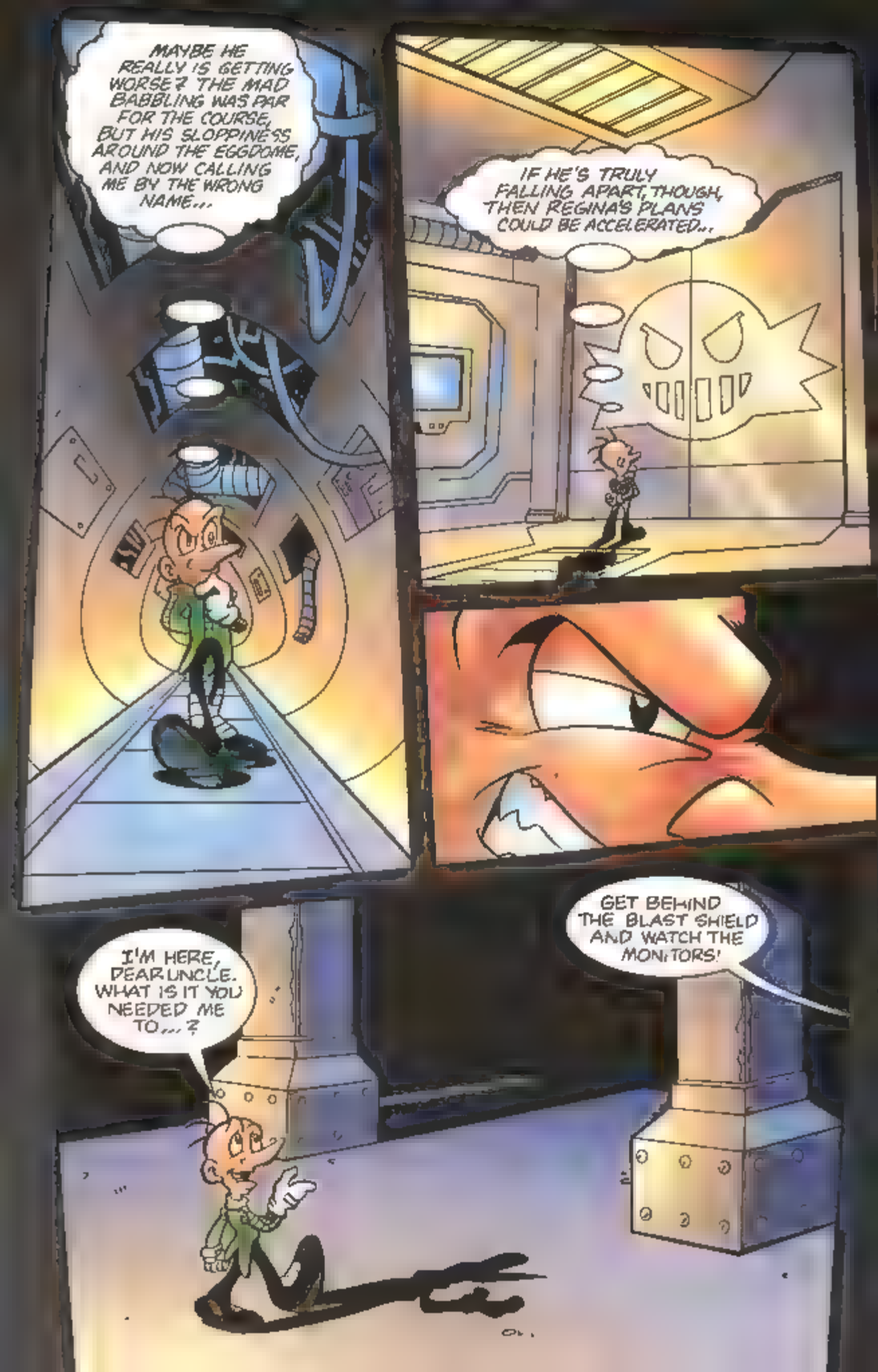
I MAY BE BEAT *THIS* TIME, BLUE, BUT I'M NOT THROUGH YET!

ENOUGH. OFFICERS ZECTOR AND ZESPIO WILL SEE YOU HOME.

"I'M SORRY, SONIC. BUT YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN."

NEW MOBOTROPOLIS -- HEDGEHOG RESIDENCE
YO! I'M HOME!
THERE'S MY BEAUTIFUL BOY!
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER GET USED TO YOU SAVING THE WORLD EVERY DAY.
NOT THAT WE WANT YOU TO STOP.
IT'S STILL KIND OF WEIRD COMING HOME TO YOU GUYS. NOT LIKE I MIND.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A TYRANNICAL MADMAN CONQUERS THE WORLD AND RUINS EVERYONE'S LIVES.
BUT WE'RE TOGETHER NOW, AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS
SO SCOURGE IS SAFELY LOCKED AWAY?
YEP.
DO YOU GET A MINUTE TO REST NOW?
JUST ONE. THEN I'M HOPING TO FINISH ONE MORE FIGHT.

NEW MEGAOPOLIS--
EGGDOME
COLIN! GET DOWN TO THE LAB! NOW!
TCH I'M BEING BELLOWED AT. I HAVE TO GO.
I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW?
I'D HOPE SO! GOOD NIGHT, MY LITTLE SNIVY-KINS.
GOOD NIGHT, MY DEAR REGINA
OF ALL THE TIMES FOR HIM TO CALL ME! WHY CAN'T HE DO WHATEVER IT'S HIMSELF?
WAIT... HE CALLED ME "COLIN."
HE'S NEVER CALLED ME BY MY BIRTH NAME...

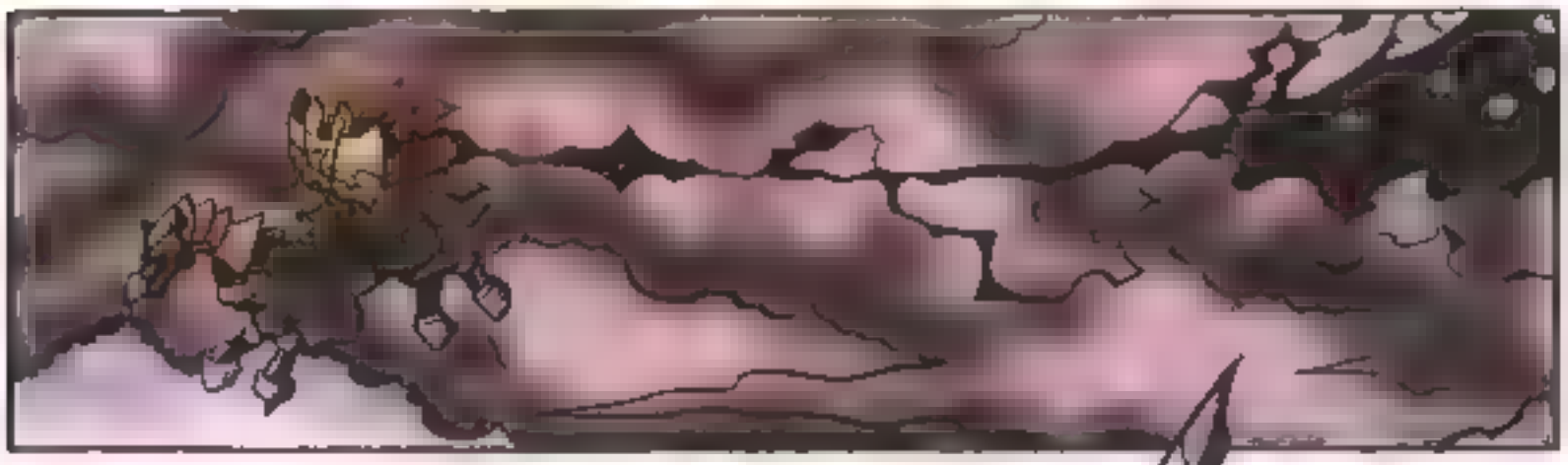

MAYBE HE REALLY IS GETTING WORSE? THE MAD BABBLING WAS PAR FOR THE COURSE, BUT HIS SLOPPINESS AROUND THE EGGDOME, AND NOW CALLING ME BY THE WRONG NAME...
IF HE'S TRULY FALLING APART, THOUGH, THEN REGINA'S PLANS COULD BE ACCELERATED...
I'M HERE, DEAR UNCLE. WHAT IS IT YOU NEEDED ME TO...?
GET BEHIND THE BLAST SHIELD AND WATCH THE MONITORS!

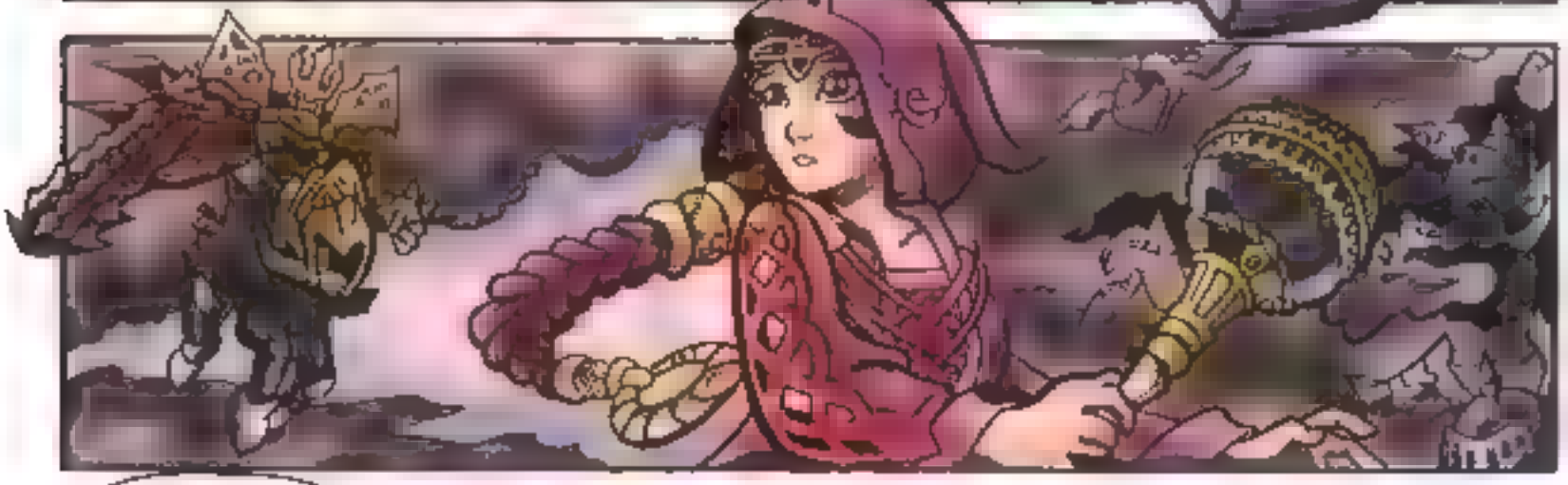
OF COURSE, SIR! WHAT ARE WE TESTING TODAY?
THE EGG MINNOW, PERHAPS?
OR MAYBE AN EGG RABBIT TO HOP AND STOMP ON SONIC? Hmmm?
EGG PHONE
BWOOSH!
AIIIEEE!!!
TEST COMPLETE! WHAT ARE THE READOUTS?
W-W-WE... AB-B-BOVE YOUR E E-EXPECTATIONS, S-S-SIR.

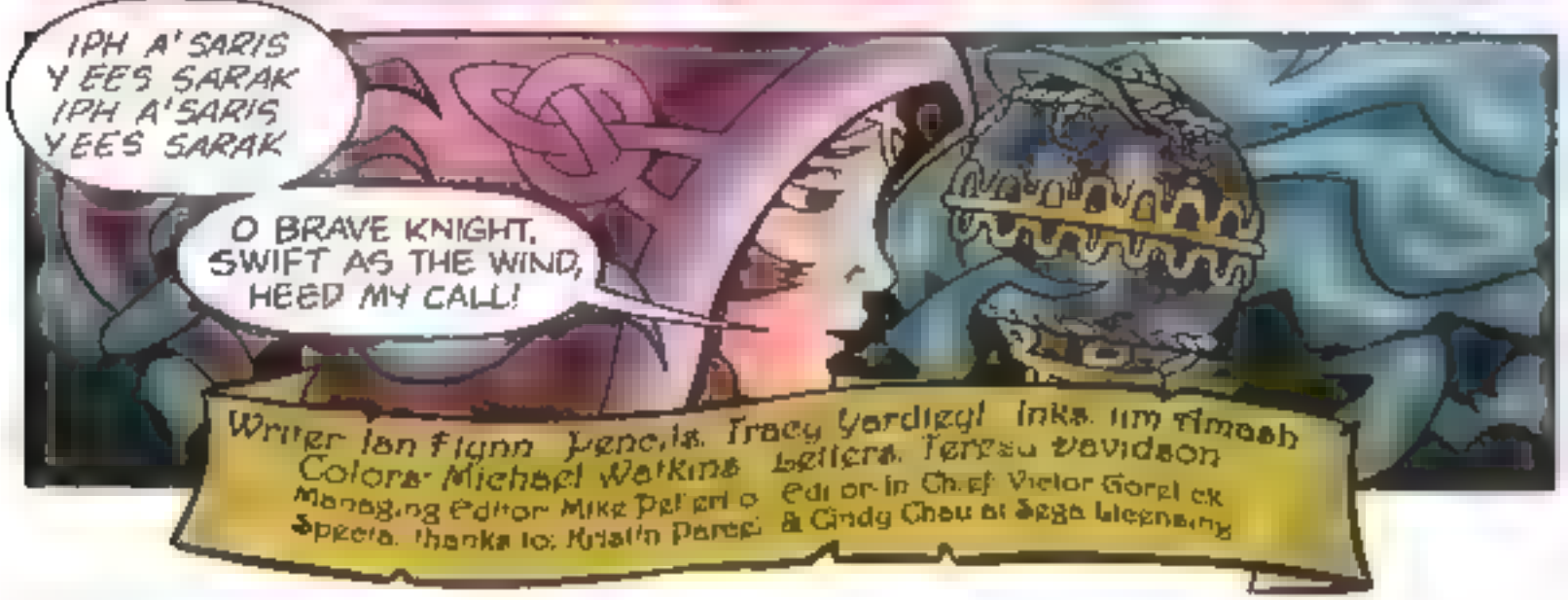
EXCELLENT!
THE EGG PHOENIX IS READY FOR LAUNCH!
With one crisis over, another looms on the horizon!
The beginning of the end starts next month as Sonic tries to bring the "Phoenix Down!"
And be sure to grab the brand new title: Sonic Universe!

SONIC and the Black Knight

KNIGHT TIME







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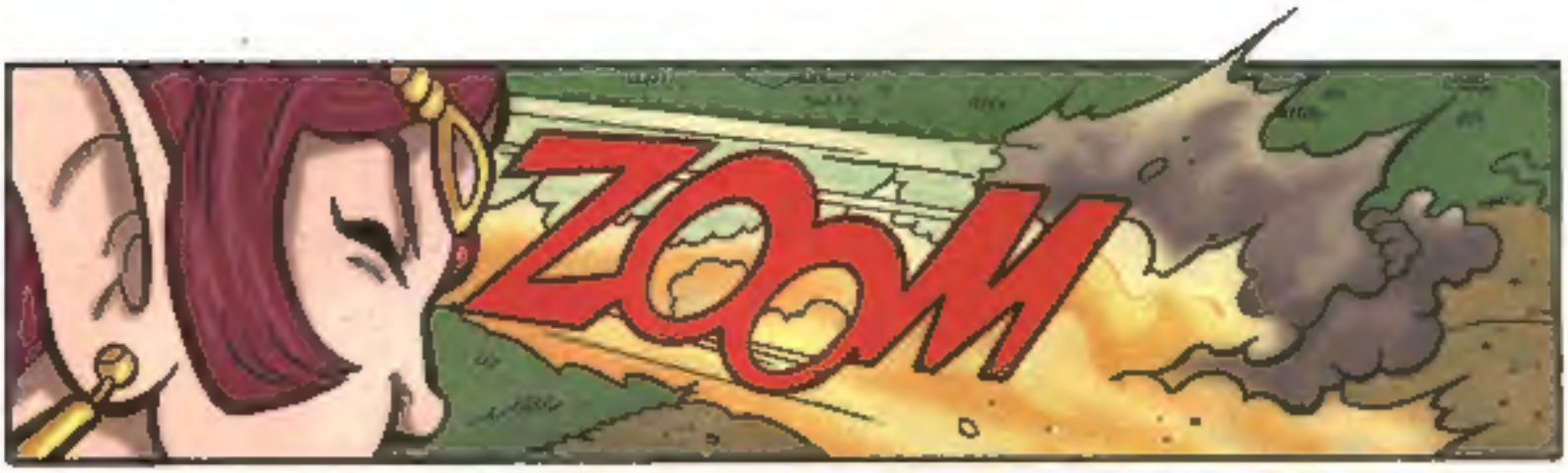
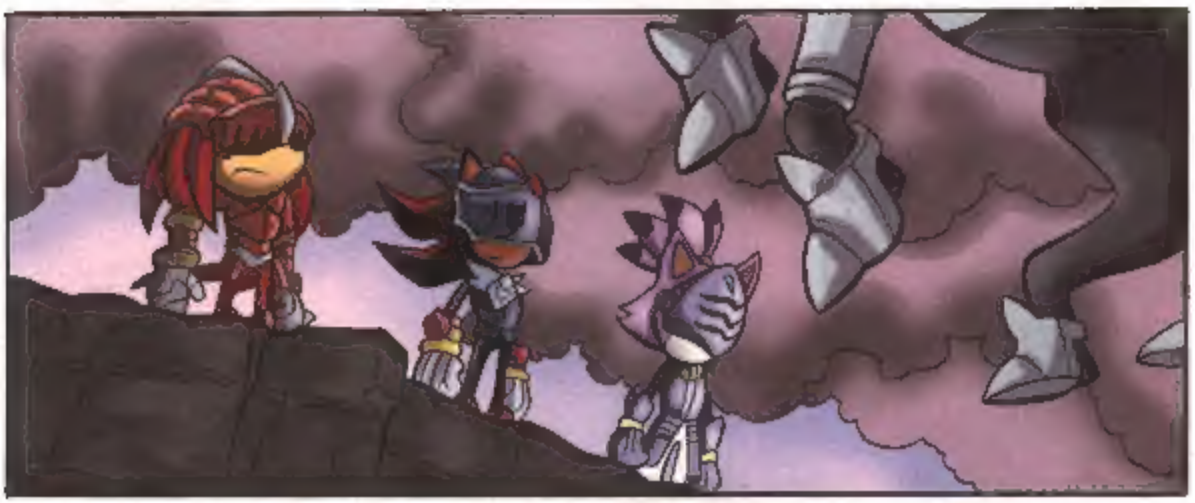
AAAAAA
OOF!
YOW!
... WHERE AM I?
BEING FROM A DISTANT WORLD! FORGIVE MY ABRUPT SUMMONS!
OH! I GET IT!
I'M USED TO STUFF LIKE THIS.


ZOOM

ZOOM

NO! YOU MUSTN'T!



I SHALL GIVE CHASE. SPREAD OUT AND GO AFTER THEM.

SLAY THEM ON SIGHT.

LET'S GO.
MUST WE? SHE IS THE ROYAL WIZARD, AFTER ALL.

THE KING'S ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE.
YES, BUT...!
WITHOUT LOYALTY TO THE KING, WE ARE NOTHING.

STILL... THE KING HAS CHANGED.
AND THIS KINGDOM...

An evil Black Knight! A mysterious wizard! Familiar faces wearing armor — and Sonic's caught in the middle of it all!
Find out what happens next in
SONIC AND THE Black Knight
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Wii
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LETTERS

DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF FAN RESPONSE IT IS [illegible]

Dear Sonic-Grams,
Hi, I love your comics! I don't see Shadow a lot anymore. I want to see more of him! He's cool!

Sincerely,
Andrew

You guys know about Sonic Universe, right? It'll have tons of Shadow action, and it's coming next month!

P.S., My friend hates Sonic!

Ouch. Well, tell him to pick up next month's issue – Sonic might get turned into one crispy hedgehog!

Hey, Sonic guys,
It's my eighteenth birthday and I'm feeling nostalgic, so I figured I'd write you guys.

We're glad you did!

Can you believe that I've been a fan of Sonic (both games and comics) since I was only two years old? I still remember way back in Issue 48, when I first saw Knuckles and the Chaotix- I couldn't pronounce "echidna" let alone know what it was, so I just said "hedgehog" and assumed he was Sonic's brother!

Now that would have been a twist.

Boy have times changed. But you know what hasn't changed, even after sixteen years? The quality of the Sonic comic stories. The art has fluctuated drastically between amazing and all but wretched, and for a while the amount of advertisements and lack of Sonic-Grams threatened to put me off of the comics forever, but always you guys have kept me hooked with the stories.

And we brought back Sonic-Grams. Woo!

Looking back at all this and seeing now just how well the art has achieved a fusion of "manga" and "western" comic book styles, and the smart "side story" way of handling many of the video games (which eliminates the need to overwhelm your own stories with Sega's, and probably helps with the advertising aspect, too!) makes me glad I've stuck with you guys for all these years.

Speaking of our tie-ins, how about that Black Knight back-up story this issue?

So here's to sixteen more years (and then some!) of great comics!

Much love,
Camille M.
Minnesota

Thanks for the honest critiques and praise, Camille. We hope you stick around for another sixteen years – and more!

Hey blue, I want to talk to you!

Can we stand in for him? We know him pretty well.

My dream is to be your #1 fan & to have my fan art and my letter to be on the back of the comics.

You're half-way there!

What's with Sonic invading Anti-Mobius and is anyone going with Sonic or are all the Freedom Fighters going with him?

Joey E.

By now you've gotten your answers! Did you like seeing the folks from Moebius, the Anti-Mobius?

Write in and let us know if you want to see more!

NEXT ISSUE: 198

The Phoenix takes flight the week of 3/23/09!

NEXT SONIC UNIVERSE:

SONIC UNIVERSE #2 ON SALE THE WEEK OF 4/6/09!

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